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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 11 APRIL 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and British aircraft based in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait continued between 1 and 7 April 1999 and that the aircraft in question engaged in acts of aggression, reconnaissance activities and acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with the United States, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the facilities for these acts of aggression, namely Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.

These actions are continuing to bring death and injury to hundreds of civilians and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The logistic support that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait provide to the United States and British forces makes them key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they share international responsibility for the consequences of these actions. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on its people by these same actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations by United States and British aircraft and damage caused, 1-7 April 1999

1. In the southern region 164 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 8,000 to 12,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Basrah, Diwaniyah, Najaf, Amarah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Shinafiyah, Rifa'i, Safwan, Lasaf, Qal'at Sukkar, Ansab, Nukhayb, Afak and Shatrah.

2. At 0900 hours on 2 April 1999 13 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. These formations included F-14s, F-15s, F-16s, F-18s and Tornadoes, and they were supported by one AWACS and one E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace. They carried out 32 sorties from Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti airspace, and they overflew the Salman, Samawah, Diwaniyah, Najaf and Qurnah areas and bombed residential neighbourhoods in the Afak area of Qadisiyah Governorate. Two dwellings were destroyed in the bombing and a number of civilians were wounded. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1035 hours, drove them off.

At 1700 hours on the same day another 12 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. These formations included F-14s, F-15s, F-16s, F-18s and Tornadoes, and they were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace. They carried out 21 sorties from Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti airspace, and they overflew the Salman, Samawah, Nasiriyah, Basrah and Amarah areas and bombed services-related installations in the Basrah area. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1810 hours, drove them off.

3. At 1815 hours on 2 April 1999 United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory bombed the station controlling the flow of Iraqi oil to Mina' al-Bakr as part of the Iraqi Southern Oil Company system. This major control station is located at Hamdan in the Abu al-Khasib area of Basrah Governorate. The United States-British aggression destroyed the control station, and it is clear that its objective was to halt the flow of Iraqi oil by way of Mina' al-Bakr in southern Iraq in a hostile and malicious attempt to void the memorandum of understanding between Iraq and the United Nations on the oil-for-food programme.

4. At 1335 hours on 4 April 1999 13 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. These formations included F-14s, F-15s, F-16s, F-18s and Tornadoes, and they were supported by one AWACS and one E-2C command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace. They carried out 22 sorties from Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti airspace, and they overflew the Basrah, Dhi Qar and Muthanna areas and bombed a number of services-related sites in the southern region. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1553 hours, drove them off.

At 2030 hours on the same day another 12 formations of United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. These formations included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s, and they were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft from inside Saudi airspace. They carried out 20 sorties from Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti airspace, and they overflew the Salman, Samawah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Amarah, Najaf and Nukhayb areas and bombed a number of services-related installations in the central and southern regions. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2145 hours, drove them off.

5. At 1255 hours on 5 April 1999 United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. These formations included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s, and they carried out eight sorties from Saudi airspace and overflew areas to the north of Hafr al-Batin inside Iraqi territory before leaving at 1553 hours.

6. At 1325 hours on 7 April 1999 United States and British aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. These formations included F-14s, F-15s and F-16s. They carried out 40 sorties, 28 of them from Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti airspace, and overflew the Nasiriyah, Salman, Samawah, Diwaniyah, Busayyah, Chabaish, Hawr al-Hammar, Qal'at Sukkar and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1545 hours, drove them off.